

Message Text

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SUBJECT: FOREIGN ECONOMIC POLICY TOWARD AFRICA

REF: STATE 164983

1. SUMMARY: US FOREIGN ASSISTANCE TO MOZAMBIQUE IS CURRENTLY LIMITED TO PL480 ASSISTANCE BECAUSE OF CONGRESSIONAL RESTRAINTS ON BILATERAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE. THUS, THE FIRST PRIORITY FOREIGN ECONOMIC POLICY OBJECTIVE INsofar AS MOZAMBIQUE IS CONCERNED, IS THE LIFTING OF THE CONGRESSIONAL PROHIBITION FOR THE SHORT TERM,

CONTUINED FOOD AID AND BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SUPPORT WILL BE OF AS MUCH IMPORTANCE TO MOZAMBIQUE AS DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE. BECAUSE OF OUR SHORTAGE OF PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE TECHNICIANS AND THE PROBLEMS BEING EXPERIENCED BY DONORS IN ADMINSTRERING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS IN MOZAMBIQUE WE BELIEVE US SUPPORT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS IS THE MOST APPROPRIATE FORM OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE IN MOZAMBIQUE. END SUMMARY.

2. THE CURRENT CONGRESSIONAL PROHIBITION ON BILATERAL ASSISTANCE AS WELL AS THE INSTRUCTION THAT THE US OPPOSE ASSISTANCE TO MOZAMBIQUE FROM INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS HAS SEVERELY HINDERED OUT EFFORTS TO DEMONSTRATE OUR WILLVINGNESS TO AID MOZAMBIQUE'S DEVELOPMENT.

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WHILE PL480 TITLE II FOOD SHIPMENTS CONTINUE TO ARRIVE UNDER THE 1977 AGREEMENT ADDITIONAL TITLE II FLOOD AID IS STILL AWAITING WASHINGTON CONSIDERATION, AND THE GPRM HAS MADE ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF FOOD AID UNDER TITLES I AND III. THE SHADOW OF TH CONGRESSIONAL PROHIBITION HAS EVEN FALLEN ACROSS PL480 ASSISTANCE, AND UNTIL IT IS REMOVED IT WILL CONTUINE TO BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO HOLD AID DISCUSSIONS

WITH THE GPRM IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF MUTUAL CONFIDENCE.
A MAJOR EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO COMVINCE CONGRESS OF THE EFFICACY
OF AID TO MOZAMBIQUE.

3. MOZAMBIQUE, AS OTHER LUSOPHONE COUNTRIES LIKE CAPE VERDE AND
GUINEA-BISSAU, EMERGED FROM ITS COLONIAL WAR FIRMLY COMMITTED TO
PROGRAMS WHICH MEET BASIC HUMAN NEEDS. THE GPRM HAS DEVOTED
EXTENSIVE RESOURCES TO LITERACY AND BASIC EDUCATION, HEALTH
CARE AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE, AND FOOD PRODUCTION AND AGRICULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT. THERE IS NO DOUBT OF THE THE GPRM'S DEDICATION TO
MEETING THE NEEDS AND RAISING THE
LIVING STANDARDS OF THE POOREST SEGMENTS OF THE POPULATION. THE
ARE SIZABLE NUMBERS OF FOREIGN TECHNICIANS ASSISTING THE GPRM
IN THESE FIELDS, AND GOVERNMENT NOW SEEKS FOOD IMPORTS, BALANCE
OF PAYMENTS SUPPORT, AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT TO MEET
SHORT TERM NEEDS AND PAVE THE WAY FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH WITH EQUITY.

4. BECAUSE OF THE GREAT DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED
BY FOREIGNERS
IN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS NOT THE LEAST OF WHICH ARE LOCAL
LIVING CONDITIONS FOR THE TECHNICIANS AND THE PROBLEMS OF
LANGUAGE AND ACCESSABILITY TO THE FEW OFFICIALS WHO CAN MAKE
DECISIONS, WE DO NOT
BELIEVE THAT PROJECTS REQUIRING LARGE NUMBERS OF AMERICAN TECHNICIANS
AND ADVISORS ARE FOR THE NEAR TERM IN THE INTERESTS OF EITHER
GOVERNMENT. INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT WOULD BE A MORE APPROPRIATE FORM
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OF ASSISTANCE UNTIL WE ESTABLISH A BETTER WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH
THE
FRELIMO GOVERNMENT. ASSISTANCE IN TRANSPORTATION OR WITH
RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT WHICH ARE TWO THEMES OF THE SADAP STUDY
WOULD OFFER GOOD OPPORTUNITIES FOR INFRASTRUCTURE ASSISTANCE TO
MOZAMBIQUE.

5. MOZAMBIQUE WILL CONTINUE TO REQUIRE SUBSTANTIAL FOOD IMPORTS UNTIL
INTERNAL BOTTLENECKS ARE CLEARED AND ADDITIONAL LAND IS PUT UNDER
CULTIVATION. WE NEED TO MOVE AHEAD WITH POSSIBLE PL480 TITLES I
AND III PROGRAMS AND BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER TITLE II REQUESTS
WHEN A GENUINE EMERGENCY EXISTS.
DE PREE

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